

Message Text

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53

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SYE-00 /014 W
----- 007303

O R 071117Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4192
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
MSGBN HQ ARLINGTON

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ADDIS FOR RSO

NAIROBI FOR CO CO "F" AND RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, MILI, SO, US

SUBJECT: IVERSON WITHDRAWAL

REF: A) STATE 218167, B) MOGADISCIO 1427

1. FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF LCPL ROBERT W. IVERSON ON SEPTEMBER 5 (REFTEL B), THE CHARGE HAND-DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING NOTE VERBALE TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROTESTING IVERSON'S 28-HOUR DETENTION BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE (NSS). THE MINISTRY'S INITIAL REACTION IS REPORTED BELOW: A FORMAL REPLY TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

2. TEXT OF NOTE: COMPLIMENTARY OPENING. QTE REFERRING TO THE MINISTRY'S NOE OF SEPTEMBER 2, 1976, HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT ASSISTANT ATTACHE ROBERT W. IVERSON LEFT MOGADISCIO ON SEPTEMBER 5.

IN SO DOING, THE EMBASSY WISHES TO UNDERSCORE ITS GRAVE CONCERN AT THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO IMPLEMENT THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES TO WHICH MR. IVERSON WAS ENTITLED UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION. WITH-
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OUT COMMENTING ON THE MINISTRY'S VERSION OF THE EVENTS LEADING

TO MR. IVERSON'S DETENTION, THE EMBASSY WOULD POINT OUT THAT, WHATEVER THE NATURE OF HIS ALLEGED OFFENSE, IT WAS INCORRECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO KEEP IN IN PROLONGED DETENTION. NOR WAS THE PROLONGED DETENTION OF MR. IVERSON IN ANY WAY JUSTIFIED BY HIS REGRETTABLE LAPSE IN GIVING A FALSE NAME WHEN FIRST QUESTIONED BY THE AUTHORITIES; A TELEPHONE CALL TO THE EMBASSY COULD HAVE ESTABLISHED MR. IVERSON'S IDENTITY AND DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN MINUTES. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONSISTENT WITH THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION, AS WELL AS ITS DESIRE FOR CLOSER BILATERAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING EXPRESSED IN THE MINISTRY'S NOTE, THAN HIS DETENTION, INCOMMUNICADO, FOR 28 HOURS. THE FAILURE TO RELEASE MR. IVERSON OR EVEN TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS DETENTION IS ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE MINISTRY WAS APPRISED OF MR. IVERSON'S DISAPPEARANCE BY NOTES VERBALE AND BY THE PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF THE COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY AND THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE MINISTRY WITHIN HOURS AFTER THE FACT.

IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND IN THE FUTURE, AND THE DAMAGE THEY DO TO EFFORTS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SOMALIA AND THE UNITED STATES, THE EMBASSY RESTATES ITS WILLINGNESS, EXPRESSED IN ITS NOTE VERBALE OF AUGUST 28, TO DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE LIAISON BETWEEN THE MINISTRY AND THE EMBASSY. UNQTE. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING.

3. THE CHARGE HAND-DELIVERED THE ABOVE NOTE TO HASSAN KAID ABDULLAH, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN-AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SEPTEMBER 7, AFTER THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY, DR. ABDURAHMAN JAMA BARRE, DECLINED TO GIVE THE CHARGE AN APPOINTMENT. HASSAN KAID'S INITIAL REACTION TO THE CHARGE'S PRESENTATION WAS LOW-KEY AND EVEN SYMPATHETIC, BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GSDR WOULD ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT. HE SAID THAT IVERSON HAD "FORFEITED" ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY THE GSDR WHEN HE GAVE A FALSE NAME AND THAT IVERSON ALONE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS PREDICAMENT. AS FOR THE GSDR REQUEST THAT IVERSON BE WITHDRAWN, HASSAN KAID SAID THAT IT WAS FOR IVERSON'S OWN GOOD. HE THOUGHT -- PROBABLY CORRECTLY -- THAT IVERSON BECAME A MARKED MAN AFTER HIS RUN-IN WITH THE NSS AND MIGHT HAVE RUN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFOUL OF THE NSS AGAIN HAD HE STAYED ON. HE SAID THAT A FORMAL REPLY ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE FORTHABMING. THE EMBASSY WILL CABLE THE TEXT.

4. COMMENT: WE STILL SEE UTILITY IN CONVEYING OUR CONCERNS TO SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU, BUT AT THIS JUNCTURE IT MAY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO CALL HIM IN ESPECIALLY TO HEAR A REPEAT OF THE U.S. PROTEST NOTE. BARRING THE UNEXPECTED IN THE

MINISTRY'S REPLY TO OUR NOTE, WE BELIEVE THE SOMALIS INTEND TO CLOSE THE INCIDENT. INSTEAD, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRING UP OUR CONCERNS AT THE NEXT REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETING WITH ADDOU, CITING THE IVERSON INCIDENT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF EXAGGERATED AND UNFRIENDLY PINPRICK THAT BEDEVILS US/SOMALI RELATIONS AND DISTRACTS ATTENTION FROM EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THOSE RELATIONS.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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